GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:944
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Ban on Coal Mining
Pala Shri Vincent H

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of ban on coal mining in the State of Meghalaya by the National Green Tribunal;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Union Government has filed a counter Affidavit in the Court of NGT and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
(d) whether the Government plans to frame special guidelines for mining of Coal in Tribal and Sixth Schedule Areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench at New Delhi vide Order dated 17th April, 2014 in Original Application No.73/2014 in the matter of 'All Dimasa Students Union Dima Hasao Dist. Committee Vs State of Meghalaya & Othrs', has directed to stop the rat hole mining /illegal mining of coal throughout the State of Meghalaya.

(c) Pursuant to the Orders dated 31st March, 2016 of the NGT, report of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and subsequent deliberations by the Committee constituted by the NGT, this Ministry has filed a counter affidavit.

(d) No such guidelines are under formulation in this Ministry. However, the Ministry of Coal have informed that a proposal has been submitted by the Government of Meghalaya to amend certain provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and rescinding the application of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 through a Presidential Notification under Paragraph 12A(b) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

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